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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 12.

Please amend claims 2, 7, 9, 10, 11 and 13 as follows:

A2 B1
CofM

2. (Amended) The drive axle assembly according to claim 1, wherein said axle housing includes a main housing portion supporting said axle shaft and a bearing cage removably secured to said main housing portion supporting said driven shaft.

A3 B1
CofM

7. (Amended) The drive axle assembly according to claim 6, wherein said bearing assembly includes a cup affixed to said cage and a cone affixed to said shaft with rolling elements circumferentially located relative to one another by a retainer and arranged between said cup and said cone, said seal interposed between and in engagement with said cage and said cone.

A4 B1
CofM

9. (Amended) The drive axle assembly according to claim 1, further including coaxial axle shafts at least partially supported within said housing, wherein said gear assembly includes a differential coupling said axle shafts and said driven shaft to permit relative rotation between said axle shafts.

10. (Amended) The drive axle assembly according to claim 14, further including a second seal interposed between said driven shaft and said housing adjacent said bearing assembly opposite said seal.

11. (Amended) A drive axle bearing cage assembly comprising:
a bearing cage;
a driven shaft supported by said bearing cage having a yoke at one end and a pinion at another end opposite said yoke;
a bearing assembly supporting said driven shaft in said bearing cage between said yoke and said pinion;

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A4 Cont B11
C111
a first seal interposed between said driven shaft and said bearing cage adjacent to said yoke;
a second seal interposed between said driven shaft and said bearing cage adjacent to said pinion.

A5 B11
C111
13. (Amended) The drive axle-bearing cage assembly according to claim 12, wherein said bearing assembly includes a cup affixed to said cage and a cone affixed to said shaft with rolling elements circumferentially located relative to one another by a retainer and arranged between said cup and said cone, said seal interposed between and in engagement with said cage and said cone.

Please add new claim 14 as follows:

A6 B11
C111
14. (New) The drive axle assembly according to claim 1, wherein said seal is interposed between said gear assembly and said bearing assembly.
